

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 175445
ORIGIN ARA-14

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DRAFTED BY ARA/ECA:NBOUTON:TR
APPROVED BY ARA:FJMCNEIL
ARA/ECA:RWZIMMERMANN
ARA/PPC:KMARSHALL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 175445

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PO, BR

SUBJECT:BRIZOLA MEETING IN DEPARTMENT

REFS: (A) BRASILIA 5353; (B) STATE 172819; AND PREVIOUS

1. ON JULY 11, DEP. ASST. SEC. MCNEIL RECEIVED BRIZOLA FOR BRIEF DISCUSSION. BRIZOLA'S PURPOSE IN VISIT WAS TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN THAT GOB-SPONSORED POLITICAL OPENING IN BRAZIL WOULD PROCEED TOO SLOWLY TO SATISFY THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE MANY FORCES WHICH HAD BEEN ENERGIZED BY THE PROSPECT OF REDEMOCRATIZATION. HE FEARED THAT IF LIBERALIZATION LAGGED TOO FAR BEHIND THE PEOPLE'S EXPECTATIONS, THE RESULTANT TENSIONS COULD PREJUDICE THE LIBERALIZATION PROCESS AND MIGHT EVEN PRECIPITATE A RETROGRESSION.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 175445

2. MCNEIL NOTED THAT THE BRAZILIANS SEEMED TO BE VIGOROUSLY WORKING OUT THEIR POLITICAL PROBLEMS AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE DIFFERENT ELEMENTS INVOLVED WOULD ACHIEVE A SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION. HE ALSO TOLD BRIZOLA THAT WE VALUED OUR RELATIONS WITH BRAZIL AND THE GOB WHICH WERE BROAD AND COMPLEX, THAT THE BRAZILIAN

POLITICAL PROCESS WAS AN INTERNAL AFFAIR IN WHICH THE USG COULD NOT BE PERCEIVED AS FAVORING ANY OF THE CONTENDING PARTIES.

3. BRIZOLA SAID HE UNDERSTOOD TOTALLY, THAT THE MOST HE MIGHT EXPECT IS THAT EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS IN AN INDIRECT AND APPROPRIATE MANNER ENCOURAGE THE GOB TO BE SENSITIVE TO THE NEED FOR A RAPID RETURN TO FULL DEMOCRACY.

4. BRIZOLA ALSO SAID HE WISHED TO RETURN TO BRAZIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BUT THAT HE WOULD DO SO ONLY WHEN HE THOUGHT HIS RETURN WOULD HAVE A CONSTRUCTIVE EFFECT ON THE LIBERALIZING PROCESS. UNDER THIS CRITERION, HE UNDERSTOOD HE COULD NOT RETURN AT THIS DELICATE JUNCTURE, BUT HOPED CONDITIONS FOR HIS RETURN MIGHT BECOME MORE PROPITIOUS OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

5. DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO INFORMED BRAZILIAN EMBASSY OF BRIZOLA'S VISIT, CHARACTERIZING IT AS A GENERAL DISCUSSION IN LINE WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S "OPEN DOOR" POLICY, NOTING THAT CURRENT POLITICAL PROCESS IS BRAZILIAN INTERNAL AFFAIR AND THAT OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH POLITICAL FIGURES DO NOT CONSTITUTE ENDORSEMENT.

6. IN RESPONSE TO MCNEIL'S WISHES, BRIZOLA AGREED THAT THE DISCUSSION WAS NOT AN APPROPRIATE TOPIC FOR THE PRESS AND THERE MAY BE NO QUERIES AT ALL. ON AN "IF ASKED" CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 175445

BASIS ONLY, YOU MAY INFORM THE PRESS THAT BRIZOLA MET BRIEFLY WITH MCNEIL IN LINE WITH DEPARTMENT'S POLICY OF HEARING THE VIEWS OF BOTH GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION FIGURES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. IF NECESSARY YOU MAY ADD THAT DISCUSSION WAS OF A GENERAL NATURE. CHRISTOPHER

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